

HEALTH

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**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MALLING**



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

**Health of the Malling
District**

for the year 1953

By the

Medical Officer of Health

DR. P. JACOB GAFFIKIN

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

H. C. COLDRICK

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor:

H. C. COLDRICK, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

W. C. E. KEUTENIUS, M.S.I.A.
(Resigned 29/8/53)

R. MARSDIN, M.S.I.A.

Cleansing Officer:

A. J. WELLER, M.I.T.A.

Housing Inspector:

R. SOUTER.

Clerks:

R. M. CRIPPS
(Senior Sanitary Inspector's Clerk)

R. W. WELLARD
(Medical Officer's Clerk)

F. P. GREEN
(Cleansing Officer's Clerk)

G. T. DODGE
(General Clerk)
(Resigned 18/7/53)

A. J. GOSDEN
(General Clerk)
(Commenced 10/8/53).

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Committee:

Consists of the whole Council. This Committee meets quarterly according to notice. When any special matters affecting the drainage scheme of a particular parish or parishes are under consideration, two representatives of the Parish Council(s) concerned are invited to attend the meeting of the Committee.

County Health Area Sub-Committee:

The Council has three representatives on this Committee.

Public Health Department.
Council Offices,
High Street,
West Malling,
Kent.

7th July, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second Annual Report on the health of the area for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

The Report has been prepared, as indicated by Ministry of Health circular 1/54, dated 12th January, 1954, on the lines of that for 1952.

Attention is drawn to the fact that excessive importance should not be attached to rates which may be based on very small numbers, e.g. less than 10. It is suggested in the circular that actual numbers be shown and attention drawn to the fact that comparisons with other areas or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

The Minister also requests that additional particulars be provided *re* the qualifications and duties of the Authority's Senior Public Health Officers, together with a list indicating the Committees which are concerned with matters of public health. A list of these Officers and Committees may be found on the inside cover page at the front of the Report.

Population: The Registrar General's estimate of the Mid-Year Home Population of 36,870 is a decrease of 200 over that shown in my report for the year 1952. The new figure is based upon the result of the 1951 Census. The excess of births over deaths for the year was 170, a decrease of 48 compared with the 1952 figure.

Vital Statistics: The Death Rate of 11·04 is higher than that for 1952 (10·87) but lower than that for the previous two years (1951—12·08 and 1950—11·67). Heart Diseases, Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer), Respiratory Diseases and Nervous Diseases, remain the numerical chief causes of death. Deaths of infants under 1 year of age accounted for 4·18% of the total deaths and 62·65% of those who died during the year were aged 65 and over. This shows a slight reduction compared with the 1952 figure, which was 70·97%.

The Birth Rate of 15·64% is lower than that for the previous twelve months, which was 16·75%. Of the total number of births (live and still) 4·51% were illegitimate. There was one maternal death during the year, giving a

rate of 1.73, but in this case the interval between maternal condition and death was stated to exceed twelve months. The Infantile Mortality Rate of 29.46 was again lower than the previous years.

The Registrar General has again supplied Area Comparability Factors for adjusting the birth and death rates to secure comparison with rates in other districts or those for England and Wales. The adjusted Birth and Death Rates are obtained by multiplying the Crude Rates in each case by the Area Comparability Factors. These allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas.

Infectious and Notifiable Diseases: Again, no notification was received or death recorded from Diphtheria. This is the sixth successive year that this position has obtained. However, diphtheria is still a very serious disease and it is essential that an adequate level of immunisation should be maintained in order that there may not be a return of serious diphtheria outbreaks.

With the exception of Scarlet Fever the notification rates of diseases for the year have generally followed the pattern of those for England and Wales. The notification rate for Scarlet Fever was 0.54 compared with the figure for the Country of 1.39. Notification of Scarlet Fever was less at 20 than for the previous year when 48 cases were notified. All cases were of a very mild type without complications and none were fatal.

Staff: Details of the Staff of the Public Health Department are recorded on the inside front cover page.

Laboratory Facilities: There has been no change in the arrangements during 1953 whereby the County Pathologist or County Analyst at County Hall, Maidstone, according to examination required, have carried out this work. These arrangements have again proved to be quite satisfactory.

Ambulance Facilities: Nursing in the Home: Maternity and Child Welfare: Child Life Protection: School Health Services: The Kent County Council is the responsible authority for the administration of these services, in this district.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47: It was not necessary to make application to the Court for Orders under this Act for the removal of aged and infirm persons to institutions during the year. However, 13 visits were made to aged and infirm persons to investigate their living conditions and to try to assist. In one case an old man and an old woman were found living in a farm shed. The old woman died before it was possible to remove her to a hospital, whilst the old man entered an Institution volun-

tarily. In two other cases the aged persons also entered Institutions voluntarily. In one other case the assistance of relatives was solicited and freely given, resulting in the house being cleansed from top to bottom and redecorated; a daily cleaner was also employed. In the remaining cases the help of other persons was being given, although one of these was a hospital case and it was not possible to find a bed for the old lady in question. In our life-time the expected span of years has been lengthened and the proportion of elderly people in the community is rising, with the result that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find vacancies in the institutions and hospitals.

Mortuaries: The three mortuaries provided by the Council and situated at Aylesford, Borough Green and West Malling, continued in use during the year. They are available for use at any time and the Police are provided with keys. There is also a mortuary at Snodland provided by the Parish Council.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936: No statutory action was necessary under the Regulations during the year. A check is made when cases of tuberculosis are notified to ascertain that individuals are not engaged in occupations where risk of infection is present. When necessary the patient has been visited and informal action has always been sufficient to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

Statistical Data: Appendix A which follows contains the various tables recording vital statistics, incidence of infectious diseases, etc.



APPENDIX "A"

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	285	266	551
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	10	16	26
Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	295	282	577
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Mid-Year Home							
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	15·64
							(crude)
Adjusted Birth Rate (comparability factor of							
1.03 supplied by the Registrar General)					...		16·11
							(adjusted)
Still Births:							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	10	1	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total Still Births	...	...	...	...	11	1	12
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births					...		20·37
Deaths:							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	407
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Mid-Year Home							
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11·04
							(crude)
Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor of							
.98 supplied by the Registrar General)					...		10·82
							(adjusted)
Deaths from Puerperal causes:							
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion					...	...	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births					...	...	1·7
Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:							
Number of deaths of Infants under 1 year of							
age					...	...	17
Rate—All Infants per 1,000 Live Births					...		29·46
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live							
Births					...	...	29·46
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live							
Births					...	...	Nil
Number of deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of							
age					...	...	15
Deaths from: Malignant neoplasms (all ages)					...		62
Measles (all ages)					...	...	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)					...		Nil
Diphtheria (all ages)					...	...	Nil

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE
AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

Year	* per 1,000 estimated Home Population				per 1,000 total (live & still births)	per 1,000 live births
	Live Birth Rate		Death Rate		Still Birth Rate	Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age
	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate		
Malling R.D. 1949	16.53	—	10.35	9.63	13.31	17.64
1950	14.62	14.62	11.67	10.97	19.19	21.53
1951	15.53	15.53	12.08	11.36	13.91	31.75
1952	16.73	16.75	10.87	10.22	15.85	30.60
1953	15.64	16.11	11.04	10.82	20.37	29.46
England and Wales 1953 (Provisional)	15.5		11.4		22.4	26.8‡

* 1949 rates for 1,000 estimated civilian resident population.

‡ Per 1,000 related live births.

CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.

The following table shows the number of cases in which bedding was steam disinfected and one or more rooms disinfected:—

Work Carried Out	Tuberculosis	Dysentery	Cancer	Miscellaneous
Fumigation of Rooms and Disinfection of Bedding	5	—	—	—
Fumigation of Rooms only	10	—	—	—
Disinfection of Bedding only	1	1	1	4

Terminal disinfection is offered to householders following cases of Scarlet Fever. In many cases, however, this is not carried out owing to the patient having recovered and the room re-used before notification of the disease is received in the Department. In instances where notifiable diseases come to the notice of the Department and a notification has not been received from the doctor in attendance, investigations are carried out and where necessary the doctor is requested to submit a notification.

Food Poisoning: The table given below is of food poisoning notifications which were received and investigated and returned to the Registrar General:—

1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	1

Outbreaks due to identified agents:

Total Outbreaks: 1 (Salmonella Typhi-murium). Total Cases 2.

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause:

Total Outbreaks: Nil. Total Cases: Nil.

Single Cases:

Agent identified: 1 (Shigella Sonne), 1 Case.

Unknown Cause: Nil.

Total Cases: 1.

There were no deaths from food poisoning during the year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox. The Kent County Council is responsible for the provision in this district of facilities for immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox and the following information has been received from the County Medical Officer (Dr. A. Elliott), concerning such during the year 1953.

	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—9	10—14	Total under 15 years	
								15 or over	Total
No. of children resident in the Rural District of Malling who were immunised against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1953. (i) Primary Inoculations (ii) Reinforcing Inoculations	45	324	37	20	6	13	—	445	
	—	—	—	—	10	271	15	296	
No. of children resident in the Rural District of Malling under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1953, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1939).	45	377	405	426	500	1798	1213	4764	
No. of persons resident in the Rural District of Malling who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1953. (i) Number Vaccinated (ii) Number Re-Vaccinated.	202		188			12		12	414
	—		2			8		38	48

The following table relates to the incidence of Notifiable Disease according to disease, sex, and age groups:—

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles (excluding Rubella)		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-paralytic		M	F	M	F
					M	F	M	F				
Under 1	—	—	8	2	—	—	—	—	9	5	—	—
1—2	—	1	17	20	—	—	—	—	50	30	—	—
3—4	2	—	16	19	—	—	—	1	59	60	—	—
5—9	7	6	20	36	1	—	1	—	118	107	—	—
10—14	—	4	—	3	—	1	—	—	6	10	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	7	2	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	9	11	61	83	2	2	1	2	249	215	—	—
	20		144		4		3		464		—	
Quarter ending												
31-3-53	3	8	1	2	—	—	—	—	173	153	—	—
30-6-53	2	2	—	4	1	1	—	—	55	48	—	—
30-9-53	3	1	44	57	1	1	1	2	1	2	—	—
31-12-53	1	—	16	20	—	—	—	—	20	12	—	—

	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Infective		Post Infectious		M	F
							M	F	M	F		
Under 5	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	7	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14		6		—		—		—		—	
Quarter ending												
31-3-53	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-6-53	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-9-53	—	1	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31-12-53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Para- Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection		Food Poisoning		Puerperal pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M	F	
Under 5	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
15—44	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	
45—64	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	1	4	—	—	
	—		3		1		3		4	—		
Quarter ending												
31-3-53	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
30-6-53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
30-9-53	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	
31-12-53	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	

The table given below is inserted for comparison with the Death and Notification rates for England and Wales with those for Malling Rural District for 1953 and five previous years:—

	England and Wales (provisional 1953)	Malling Rural District					(Civilian)	(Resident)	
		1953	1952	1951	1950	1949			1948
		Rates per 1,000 population (Home)							
DEATHS—									
All causes	11.4	11.04	10.87	12.08	11.67	10.45	12.36		
Typhoid and paratyphoid	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	0.00	00.00		
Whooping Cough	00.01	00.00	00.00	00.03	00.00	00.00	00.03		
Diphtheria	00.00	00.00	0.000	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00		
Tuberculosis	00.20x	00.22x	00.22x	00.38x	00.43x	00.58x	00.68x		
Influenza	00.16	00.24	00.03	00.12	00.20	00.09	00.00		
Smallpox	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00		
Acute poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	00.01	00.00	00.00	00.03	00.03	00.00	00.00		
Pneumonia	00.55	00.57	00.46	00.58	00.49	00.65 ⁵⁰	00.35		
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—									
Typhoid Fever	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00		
Paratyphoid Fever	00.01	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	0.00		
Meningococcal Infection	00.03	00.03	00.03	00.08	00.00	00.00 ⁰	00.03 ⁰		
Scarlet Fever	01.39	00.54	01.29	00.36	00.63	00.32	00.32		
Whooping Cough	03.58	03.90	00.84	07.61	01.12	00.99	06.40		
Diphtheria	00.01	0.000	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00		
Erysipelas	00.14	00.08	00.13	00.30	00.09	00.09	00.09		
Smallpox	00.00	00.00	0.000	0.000	00.00	00.00	00.00		
Measles	12.36	12.58	12.14	17.06	04.41	13.87	07.46		
Pneumonia	00.84	00.38	00.27	00.22	00.26	00.50	00.35		
Acute Poliomyelitis	00.07	00.11	00.00	00.05	00.11	00.06	00.03		
(including Acute Polioencephalitis)									
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.004	00.08	00.03	00.03	00.03	00.29	00.00		
Food Poisoning	00.24	00.08	00.13	00.11	00.11	00.00	00.00		
Acute Encephalitis		00.00	00.03	00.00	00.03	00.00	00.00		
Acute Encephalitis		00.00	00.00	0.000	00.00	01.31	01.61		
Tuberculosis		00.68	00.97	01.42	01.06	00.12	00.59		
		00.11	00.05	00.27	00.37				

O—Cerebro-spinal Fever.

x—Respiratory and Other Forms.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Table set out below records in age groups the new cases recorded in the register during the year, together with the number of deaths which occurred.

Age Periods (Years)	New Cases*				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—14	...	2	1	1	...	1	...	...
15—24	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	1
25—34	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—44	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
45—54	6	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
55—64	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
65 and over	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Age Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	16	9	1	3	6	1	...	1
	25		4		7		1	
	29				8			
March Quarter	6	4	...	3	1	...	...	...
June Quarter	4	2	1	...	1	1	...	...
September Quarter	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	1
December Quarter	5	2	...	...	1	...	...	...

* Related to Primary Notifications received under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930 and 1952.

Number of deaths from Tuberculosis of persons who had not been notified as suffering from that disease 1 (M)=0.11%.

The Chest Physician for the area, Dr. D. L. Pugh, has kindly supplied me with information as to the preventive care and after-care measures which are in operation in the Mid-Kent area. The figures relate to the area which is served by the Chest Clinic in Maidstone, which is approximately the area of the four Authorities for which I am Medical Officer. The figures quoted below give the number of patients diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis, and the results of the investigation of contacts of these cases, in the five years 1949-1953. These figures show that of the known contacts 58.5% were examined and of those investigated 5.25% were diagnosed as being tuberculous.

Year	Persons diagnosed as tuberculous	Number of known Contacts	Number of contacts examined	Contacts diagnosed tuberculous
1949	141	201	89	10
1950	108	209	110	4
1951	102	231	105	7
1952	139	227	164	2
1953	123	179	145	9

If, after treatment, it is possible for a patient to return, with safety, to his previous employment, this is the policy which is followed. If, however, that particular employment should prove to be inadvisable, or unsuitable for the patient on his recovery, every effort is made to help him to find suitable occupation, through the good offices of the Disablement Resettlement Officer, Ministry of Labour, and in some cases it is possible to arrange that the patient should have a course of training, to fit him for work more appropriate to his condition. No tuberculous patient would, of course, be allowed to work where there was milk or food to be handled and I have had no experience of a sputum-positive case refusing to leave his work and thus become a danger to his fellow employees, but should such a position arise, steps would be taken to endeavour to protect such fellow-workers.

In the tracing and following-up of contacts of known cases and of deaths certified as being due to tuberculosis, but not previously notified, the Health Visitor visits the household and contacts are called to the Chest Clinic for examination.

During the period 7/9/53 to 28/11/53, the Mass Radiography Unit No. 7B was sited in Maidstone and large numbers of volunteers from industrial concerns and from the general public, attended. A summary of the results is given below. These figures also relate to the Mid-Kent area as the Mass Radiography Unit dealt with volunteers from Maidstone and the adjacent Rural Districts.

	Examined.	Active tuberculosis.	Inactive tuberculosis.	Carcinoma of lung.
Volunteers from Industries:				
Male	4,617	6	126	1
Female	3,511	4	55	—
Volunteers from General Public:				
Male	2,114	2	43	1
Female	3,501	4	76	—
Totals	13,743	16	300	2

DEATHS—ALL CAUSES—1953.

Age Group	Quarter Ending				Total for the year
	31.3.53	30.6.53	30.9.53	31.12.53	
Under 1 month	5	4	3	3	15
1— 2 months	...	...	...	1	1
2— 3 "	...	...	...	...	...
3— 6 "	...	...	...	...	...
6—9 "	...	...	...	...	...
9—12 "	...	...	1	...	1
Total to one year	5	4	4	4	17
1— 4 years	...	...	2	2	4
5— 9 "	...	2	...	...	2
10—19 "	1	1	1	4	7
20—29 "	3	2	4	3	12
30—39 "	5	4	1	3	13
40—49 "	7	2	5	6	20
50—59 "	16	9	5	7	37
60—64 "	15	11	5	9	40
65—69 "	18	10	14	10	52
70—79 "	44	19	14	32	109
80—89 "	38	14	10	21	83
90 and over	5	3	2	1	11
Totals	157	81	67	102	407

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age: 1952—19=4.71 %
1953—17=4.18 %

Deaths of persons aged 65 years and over: 1952—286=70.97 %
1953—255=62.65 %

The following table shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year with Rates per 1,000 Estimated Home Population:—

R.G.'s list No.	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Estimated Home Population	
			1953	1952
1	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	7	0.19	0.22
2	Tuberculosis—other	1	0.03	0.00
3	Syphilitic disease	1	0.03	0.03
4	Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.00
5	Whooping Cough	...	0.00	0.00
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	0.00	0.00
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0.00	0.00
8	Measles	1	0.03	0.00
9	Other infective and Parasitic diseases	1	0.03	0.03
10	Malignant Neoplasm—stomach	16	0.43	0.11
11	Malignant Neoplasm — lung, bronchus	9	0.24	0.30
12	Malignant Neoplasm—breast	5	0.14	0.16
13	Malignant Neoplasm—uterus	2	0.05	0.19
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	30	0.81	0.81
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0.03	0.13
16	Diabetes	3	0.08	0.05
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	47	1.27	1.51
18	Coronary disease, angina	54	1.46	1.21
19	Hypertension with Heart disease	5	0.14	0.22
20	Other Heart disease	76	2.06	2.13
21	Other circulatory disease	20	0.54	0.41
22	Influenza	9	0.24	0.03
23	Pneumonia	21	0.57	0.46
24	Bronchitis	19	0.52	0.43
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0.03	0.16
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	0.08	0.13
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0.03	0.05
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	0.05	0.03
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0.11	0.03
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1*	0.03	0.03
31	Congenital malformations	8	0.22	0.16
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases	38	1.03	1.32
33	Motor vehicle accidents	6	0.16	0.05
34	All other accidents	11	0.30	0.43
35	Suicide	4	0.11	0.05
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	0.00	0.00
	All causes	407	11.04	10.87

* In this case the interval between maternal condition and death exceeded twelve months.

Details of work carried out in connection with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area (environmental hygiene), Water Supply, Drainage, Supervision of Food Supplies and Public Cleansing Service will be found in the following report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who, in conjunction with the Cleansing Officer, has reported separately on these matters, as in previous years.

I would like to express my thanks to the Council for their support and interest. To the Staff of the Health Department I wish to express my thanks for their loyal and enthusiastic co-operation, and,

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

Council Offices,

High Street,

West Malling,

Kent.

7th July, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my sixth Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances existing in the rural district.

During the year under review the first Additional Sanitary Inspector went off duty sick in early July and eventually resigned his post with the Council without returning to duty. It was not possible to appoint a suitable successor until late in the year, and he, Mr. E. L. Allsop, did not commence duty until early 1954. Despite this staff shortage it was possible to make more visits of inspection during 1953 than 1952, viz., 7,127 against 7,110—an increase of 17.

It is pleasing to report that it has been possible to pay 777 visits to food premises of all kinds, for food hygiene work has become second only to Housing in the Department's work. Special attention is paid to cafés and works canteens and, in my opinion, the informal education of food handlers by the Sanitary Inspector, during his visits of inspection is most effective and does much to reduce the risk of food poisoning.

One of the biggest problems that the Department has to deal with is that of cesspool emptying and Mr. Weller has some pertinent remarks to make on this subject in his section of this report. As you all know, the solution to this problem is the provision of more sewers and your Consultant Engineers are engaged on two schemes at the moment. Each year the number of cesspools requiring emptying becomes greater, and it may well be necessary to eventually purchase a further machine.

A summary of all the work carried out during the year follows with comments on each subject.

SECTION C

WATER

The Mid-Kent Water Company provides a piped water supply to the major portion of the rural district. A small part of the parish of Aylesford and two cottages in the parish of Ditton are supplied by the Maidstone Waterworks Company. The Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Company supply four houses in the parish of Shipbourne from their mains, whilst the major part of this parish is served by private piped supplies. Small parts of the parishes of Aylesford, Borough Green, Burham, West Peckham and Plaxtol are also supplied with piped water from spring sources.

Of the 10,331 inhabited dwellings according to the Rate Books at the end of 1953 (computed) approximately 98.12% are served by a piped supply of water, approximately 96% being from the public mains. 158 new connections to the mains were made during the year.

It is difficult to give the exact number of houses supplied by standpipes but it is estimated the figure is approximately 1% of the total number of houses having a piped supply. Houses supplied by the:

Mid-Kent Water Company (Distribution in all parishes)	...	...	...	...	...	9870
Maidstone Water Company	...	...	...			54
Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Company						4
						— 9928

Houses supplied by piped supply from spring sources:

Aylesford	...	...	...	...	...	45
Borough Green	...	...	...	...	...	6
Burham	...	...	...	...	...	3
West Peckham	...	...	...	...	...	23
Plaxtol	...	...	...	...	...	10
Shipbourne	...	...	...	...	...	122
						— 209
						— 10137

Samples: All supplies are subjected to sampling from time to time. The following table indicates the results of the year's sampling. In addition to the results shown the

Maidstone and Mid-Kent Water Companies sample their supplies regularly and notify me of the results.

Type of Water	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	Number of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Number of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis factory
Raw Water	34	9	25	2	1	1
Treated Water	12	12	...	2	2	...

Action was taken on all 26 unsatisfactory samples. 23 such samples related to 3 private supplies and were in the nature of group samples taken at various points in an effort to localise pollution. At the year's end works to exclude birds and rabbits from one of these supplies, rendered it fit for drinking purposes, at another affecting 5 properties, an order had been placed with the Water Company to connect to the public mains, whilst in the case of the third supply, viz., Tottington Spring, investigations were proceeding. Of the other 3 unsatisfactory samples, ^{2 refer} to a spring at an isolated cottage in Swanton Valley and boiling was recommended, whilst in the other case an order has been given to connect to the mains supply.

Extension of Mains: 3,453 yards of mains were laid during the year, details of which are set out in the following table:—

Parish	Yards	Size	Water Company
East Mallng	2,338	4 inches	Mid-Kent
East Mallng	1,023	3 "	"
Ightham	92	3 "	"

Delivery of Water: 10,000 gallons of water were carried during 1953 to premises which, being dependent upon stored rain water, were temporarily without a supply. Of the total amount of water delivered 4,000 gallons were to premises in the parish of Mereworth and 5,200 gallons to premises in the parish of West Peckham, covering Swanton Valley—Peckham Hurst area. The remaining 800 gallons were delivered to an isolated cottage at Holly Hill in the parish of Birling.

Meteorology: The following data concerning meteorology for the year 1953 (with comparative figures for the four previous years) recorded at East Malling Research Station, has been supplied by the Meteorological Observer of that station:—

Month	Average Thermometer (Max.)	Average Thermometer (Min.)	Highest Thermometer	Lowest Thermometer	Average Barometer	Total Rainfall (ins.)	35 years average*	Heaviest Rainfall in one day	Number of days on which rain fell
January	41	32	56	23	30.09	1.09	1.96	0.39	12
February	44	33	56	20	30.01	1.22	1.85	0.35	10
March	49	32	69	23	30.32	0.21	2.01	0.07	5
April	53	39	66	28	29.83	2.44	1.65	0.91	15
May	64	45	88	30	30.02	1.90	1.67	0.74	8
June	66	49	79	37	29.85	1.50	2.04	0.36	13
July	69	51	79	45	29.86	2.83	2.19	0.42	19
August	71	51	88	41	30.01	1.82	2.19	0.46	12
September	66	46	75	37	29.91	2.10	1.98	0.79	12
October	58	43	69	31	30.04	2.76	3.11	0.73	15
November	52	40	59	29	30.09	1.33	2.79	0.68	8
December	49	40	61	28	30.07	0.74	2.66	0.24	11
Total/Average for the year					30.01	20.94	26.10	0.91	140
Total/Average for the year					1949	20.94	26.10	1.50	132
" " "					1950	27.35	26.10	1.36	184
" " "					1951	35.81	26.10	1.45	194
" " "					1952	26.43	26.10	1.13	183
" " "					1953	20.94	26.10	0.91	140

SUMMARY:

Rainfall for 1953 was 5.16 inches below average.

Heaviest rainfall on any one day was 0.91 inches on April 30th.

Longest wet period from October 21st to November 13th (24 days).

Longest dry period from March 6th to March 25th (20 days).

* Weighted averages for the 35-year period 1881-1915.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year one further step forward was taken in connection with the Aylesford and Ditton Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme when the Minister of Housing and Local Government held a Public Inquiry into the Scheme on the 10th June, 1953. He has since intimated his approval in principle, subject to the submission of detailed plans. These, your Consultant Engineer is preparing, and I am hopeful that they will meet with approval, for so much depends upon early implementation of this Scheme; for

example, the provision of further houses urgently needed and to reduce the heavy commitments on the cesspool emptying service.

At two of your sewage pumping stations major works were carried out during the year, viz., Swan Street, West Malling where works of converting the old gas engine with plunger pumps to electrically operated centrifugal pumps were commenced, and at Aylesford Pumping Station where the pumps were overhauled by a firm of Engineers and new reflux valves provided. This latter work resulted in greater pumping efficiency. New Hythe Pumping Station was flooded by the countrywide floods on the 31st January. This necessitated the use of two cesspool emptiers and a portable pump to restore the station to working order.

Various repair and maintenance works were carried out to your sewage works, which included the overhaul of the machinery to the three rotary filters at your Eccles works. This works is of an obsolescent type but due to careful maintenance by the men employed here, a reasonably satisfactory effluent is discharged to the River Medway.

All the effluents from your Sewage works are now regularly sampled and analysed by the Kent River Board and my attention is drawn to any sample that is unsatisfactory. In this connection samples taken during the year at Crouch and West Malling Works did not reach the required standard. At your Crouch works at Borough Green it was necessary to bring the second sedimentation tank into permanent use to reduce the high amount of suspended matter contained in the final effluent, whilst new and larger machinery for the filter on the R.A.F. extension at West Malling was on order at the year's end. The fitting of this machinery should enable this filter to deal with an increased flow of sewage, thus reducing the flow to the old section of the works and so should improve the quality of the final effluent discharged.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The following résumé of the work of the Cleansing Department during the year has been supplied by the Cleansing Officer, Mr. A. J. Weller.

By way of introduction to the main details of the work, the following points stand out as worthy of special mention:—

1. The number of new houses built during the year has still further increased the amount of refuse to be collected and disposed of, and the need for more collectors has now become urgent.

2. The work of cesspool emptying continues to increase and, to add to the difficulties, we have experienced a number of set-backs with regard to the disposal of cesspool contents. This has had the effect of increasing the time taken to do the work and has necessitated the working of overtime to a far greater extent than in previous years.
3. The ancillary work of the Department embraces the care and maintenance of Mortuaries, carriage of water to premises dependent on stored rain water, and other jobs, such as the removal of furniture of evicted Council tenants, polling booths to Polling Stations, etc. In addition, the painting and repairing of the Council's vehicles, painting and maintenance of pumping stations and sewage disposal plants all receive attention by the Council's workmen.

After the coastal floods of January and February, a request was received from the Kent County Council for volunteers to work on three consecutive weekends on the filling of sandbags. The whole of the Council's outside staff volunteered for this work.

Manpower.

The outside staff of the Council remains the same, at 45, as follows:—

- 1 Foreman.
- 1 Rodent Operator.
- 1 Fitter.
- 2 Maintenance Men.
- 12 Refuse Collectors.
- 2 Refuse Disposal.
- 2 Disposal Plants, Grass Cutting and Sludge Removal.
- 12 Cesspool Emptying and Night Soil.
- 10 Sewers and Sewage Disposal.
- 2 Salvage Sorters and Balers (Women).

During the year under review less changes in personnel occurred than in the previous year. Four men left and four were engaged to replace them, but the time lost through sickness was more than double that of the previous year.

In 1952 a total of 122 working days was lost, but in 1953 no less than 263 days were lost. When this total is added to the 90 weeks holiday due to the 45 employees between March and September, it will be appreciated why overtime has to be worked periodically in order to maintain the services.

In addition to this, 4 men are members of the same Territorial Army Unit and are, therefore, away at Camp together for two weeks.

Refuse Collection.

During the year, 164 new houses have been added to the number requiring refuse to be collected. The increase in the tonnage of refuse was 443 tons.

The second "Paxit" refuse collection vehicle was placed into service in June, and the Barrier Loader which it should have replaced was retained. The present machines are able to cope with the work at the moment, but there is only a small margin for future increases.

The need for more men is becoming more apparent from the fact that the 2 men employed ostensibly for grass cutting and sludge removal at disposal plants have frequently had to be used to assist in refuse collection. Because of this, the comparative figures in the table below will show that the total of Miscellaneous tonnage carried is lower than that for the previous year.

Year	Refuse	Hardcore & Covering	Drainage	Salvage	Misc.	Total
1950	7925½	1790½	530	*17½	273	10536
1951	7607	1924½	627½	150	§ 805	11114½
1952	7999	1868	523	175½	745½	11311½
1953	8442½	1541½	648½	210½	325	11168

* 27th November to 31st December only.

§ Extra lorry employed on Grass Cutting, maintenance of housing site disposal plants, etc.

Salvage.

The salvage position continues to be satisfactory, as will be seen from the table below.

In spite of the disastrous floods on 31st January, as a result of which the Thames Board Mills were closed for about a month, 30 tons more salvage than in the previous year were disposed of, but due to the fall in prices, receipts were down on those of last year. These receipts amounted to £1,450 7s. 10d. from 204 tons of salvage. Expenditure connected with the disposal of this salvage amounted to £834 5s. 10d., which figure includes £45 for a new baler to replace one on loan from Thames Board Mills Ltd., as well as all salvage bonus paid to the staff, wages of Sorters, heating, lighting and water, and such requirements as Sisal Cord, etc. There was, therefore, an excess of income over expenditure of £616 2s. 0d.

Year	Wastepaper etc.		Metal, Tins, Rags, Woollens, etc.		Cullett		Bottles		TOTAL	
	Weight T. c. q.	Value £ s. d.	Weight T. c. q.	Value £ s. d.	Weight T. c. q.	Value £ s. d.	Quant.	Value £ s. d.	Weight T. c. q.	Value £ s. d.
1951	141 5 3	2184 19 3	8 15 3	227 16 6					150 1 2	2412 15 9
1952	134 18 3	1410 12 9	36 1 0	356 14 0	3 13 0	3 13 0	574 doz.	23 2 9	174 12 3	1794 2 6
1953	167 1 0	1202 6 1	33 2 3	244 1 9	4 0 0	4 0 0			204 3 3	1450 7 10
	443 5 2	4797 18 1	77 19 2	828 12 3	7 13 0	7 13 0	574 doz.	23 2 9	528 18 0	5657 6 1

Refuse Disposal.

All refuse collected has been disposed of at the Ham Hill Brookland tip, and an area of approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres has now been filled. The surface has been covered with soil and levelled by the Muledozer, and 4 acres, well above flood level, have been returned for grazing.

Consent has been received from the Birling Parish Council for the use of a further 4 acres and consideration is being given to the use of Sharnall Lane for access to this new portion. By using this route of entry a saving of two miles per load would be effected by reason of the shorter distance to the tip.

No trouble has been experienced on the tip from rats or crickets, due to the better consolidation by the use of the Muledozer. The Council's Rodent Operator visits the tip in the course of his duties to ensure that rats are not present.

During July an infestation of flies required treatment, after which no further trouble was experienced.

Cesspool Emptying.

The demand for this service continues to increase. During the year, 167 new cesspools requiring four monthly service, and 74 requiring six weekly service, a total of 241, were added to the records, making a total of over 1,900 cesspools to be attended to. From these cesspools, 14,439 loads, or approximately 11,551,200 gallons, were removed.

The colossal task of disposing of $11\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons of cesspool contents per year without causing offence requires a great deal of arranging. When farmers can take it on their land it is finished with, but where it has to be stored for drying, still further work is entailed in digging out the sludge and in controlling weed growth in the summer months.

During the year, 1,764 more loads were removed than in the previous year, which represents sufficient work for one machine for 44 weeks.

Unless some relief is obtained by the completion of new sewers, the cost of overtime, which is constantly necessary, will, in my opinion, reach such proportions as to warrant the cost of purchasing an additional Cesspool Emptier.

The following table gives comparative figures for the last four years.

Year	Loads Removed				Total
	Cesspools	Flushing	Sludge, etc.	Pails	
1950	10578	480	135	156 [23514 pls.]	11349
1951	11084	211	345	168 [25295 pls.]	11808
1952	11705	396	397	177 [26528 pls.]	12675
1953	13543	255	473	168 [25133 pls.]	14439

Garages, Vehicles and Maintenance.

The Council's fleet of vehicles now consists of 2 "Paxits," 3 Barrier Loaders, 2 Side Loaders, one 2 ton Truck, 2 Vans, 6 Cesspool Emptiers and one Muledozer.

Of the 17 vehicles in use, 16 are garaged at the Garages at East Malling. The Muledozer is kept at Snodland, adjacent to the refuse tip.

All repairs are carried out by your fitter, who not only very ably services the vehicles but who also repairs breakdowns at pumping stations and disposal plants. He has also completely painted one vehicle during the year.

Tyre wear is greater on cleansing vehicles than on ordinary transport and all tyres are sent for re-treading, either by the Tyresole or Wyresole process, when necessary.

The following table sets out the saving effected by this system.

Size	Type of Repair	No. of Covers		Cost of New Tyres		Cost of repairs		Saving	
		1952	1953	1952		1953		1952	1953
34 x 7	Tyresoled	7	8	£ 141	s. 10	d. 4	£ 58	s. 16	d. 0
34 x 7	Wyresoled	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
27 x 6	Tyresoled	5	—	£ 55	s. 11	d. 8	£ 28	s. 5	d. 0
27 x 6	Wyresoled	11	10	£ 122	s. 5	d. 8	£ 73	s. 3	d. 0
500 x 18	Tyresoled	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
		23	24	£ 319	s. 7	d. 8	£ 160	s. 4	d. 0
							£ 178	s. 12	d. 0
							£ 159	s. 3	d. 8
							£ 160	s. 13	d. 0

* During 1953 a discount scheme was introduced, the rate to the Council being 5%. The real saving, therefore, is £160 13s. 0d. plus the discount, amounting to £8, making £168 13s. 0d. in all.

During the year trouble was experienced with the old petrol pump which supplies the Council's vehicles at the Garages. An Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council was asked to check the pump, and he reported that it was worn out and beyond repair. Acting on his report a new pump was purchased and installed, and the old one scrapped.

Disposal Plants and Ejector Units.

There are 14 disposal plants, 3 pump and 3 ejector units at Council house sites which require regular attention. These are inspected, cleansed and adjusted as required, thus giving very little trouble during the year.

Maintenance.

A considerable amount of painting and repair work has been necessary on the various buildings at the Sewage Works, the Mortuaries, etc., and this work has been done by your two maintenance men.

The biggest and most important job has been the commencement of reconstruction works at Swan Street Pump House.

At Aylesford Mortuary the roof was re-tiled and internal and external painting carried out, while at Borough Green Mortuary an interior wall was repaired and internal decoration carried out.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

During the year 7,127 inspections were carried out in connection with work of the Department comprised as follows:—

FOOD PREMISES.

Number of visits to	Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
"	"	"	"	Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	39
"	"	"	"	Butchers' Shops ...	...	...	...	79
"	"	"	"	Grocers' Shops ...	...	...	...	115
"	"	"	"	Fishmongers' Shops ...	...	...	...	12
"	"	"	"	Cafés ...	...	...	...	132
"	"	"	"	Works Canteens ...	...	...	...	4
"	"	"	"	Public Houses ...	...	...	...	69
"	"	"	"	Knackers' Yards ...	...	...	...	2
"	"	"	"	Slaughter Houses ...	...	...	...	31
"	"	"	"	Piggeries ...	...	...	...	3
"	"	"	"	Milk "Distributors" ...	...	...	...	83
"	"	"	"	Premises <i>re</i> application for registration of premises for the sale of ice-cream ...	...	...	...	6
"	"	"	"	Samples of Milk collected (including biological) ...	...	...	...	76
"	"	"	"	" Ice-cream collected ...	...	...	...	55
"	"	"	"	visits <i>re</i> Goats Milk ...	...	...	...	7

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of visits to Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
„ „ „ „ Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ „ „ Aged Persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ „ „ Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ „ „ Premises <i>re</i> rat and/or mice infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	1888
„ „ Premises fumigated for pests and/or vermin (other than rats and mice)	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ Disinfections carried out after infectious and notifiable diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
„ „ visits to premises <i>re</i> notifiable and infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
„ „ Inspections of Refuse Accumulations and/or Manure Heaps	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ Inspections carried out under Housing and/or Public Health Acts—First Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	373
					Revisits	...	898
„ „ Visits to meet owners/agents	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
„ „ „ „ „ builders	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
„ „ Housing Inspections in connection with rehousing	...	...	...	...	...	...	838
„ „ Huts/Hutted camps inspected (Emergency Hous- ing)	...	...	...	...	...	...	315
„ „ Visits to sewage disposal outfall works, pumping stations and small group disposal works	...	...	...	...	...	...	212
„ „ Special Investigations <i>re</i> proposed schemes for sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Cesspools and/or septic tank installations inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
„ „ Drains inspected and/or tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
„ „ Inspections of sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
„ „ Rivers, streams, ditches, ponds and/or water courses, etc., inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ Visits to Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ Samples of Swimming Bath water collected	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ „ „ drinking water collected	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
„ „ Visits to Places of Public Assembly	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
„ „ „ „ Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
„ „ Inspections of sites <i>re</i> moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
„ „ „ „ moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
„ „ Visits to premises <i>re</i> storage of petroleum spirit	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
„ „ „ „ „ „ flooding	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ „ „ „ „ Land Charges	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	378

The following table sets out the sanitary works effected to existing premises during the year under review:—

Additional W.C.s installed ...	76	W.C. seats renewed ...	7
„ flushing cisterns installed ...	76	External walls repointed/repaired ...	31
Additional lavatory basins installed ...	60	Doors and windows repaired/renewed ...	87
Baths installed ...	34	Door steps renewed ...	3
Additional sinks installed ...	12	Cooking ranges repaired/renewed ...	6
„ urinals installed ...	6	Wall plaster repaired/renewed ...	51
„ gullies installed ...	52	Gullies renewed ...	2
„ interceptor traps installed ...	7	Inspection chambers reconstructed ...	7
Additional inspection chambers installed ...	72	Interceptor traps renewed ...	1
Additional water heaters installed ...	8	Coppers repaired ...	5
Premises limewashed ...	11	Fire grates repaired/renewed ...	9
Choked drains cleansed ...	83	Yard paving repaired/renewed ...	5
Chimney pots fixed ...	10	Rain water guttering repaired/renewed ...	41
Cesspools provided ...	20	Dustbins supplied ...	106
Manhole covers/frames renewed ...	13	Floors repaired/renewed ...	18
Drains laid/altered/repaired	226	Ceiling plaster repaired-renewed ...	36
Drain ventilation shafts repaired/renewed ...	6	Chimney stacks repaired/rebuilt ...	23
Drain ventilation shafts provided ...	15	W.C. compartments repaired/reconstructed ...	8
Pail or earth closets converted to W.C.s ...	19	Dampness remedied ...	36
Elsan closets provided ...	4	Dirty premises cleansed ...	5
Sub-soil irrigation provided to drainage systems ...	18	Concrete floors provided to Hopper Huts in lieu of earth ...	55
Dip-pipes provided to cesspools ...	4	Dwellings demolished in accordance with an informal “Undertaking” ...	3
Roofs repaired ...	66	Number of Formal Notices served during 1953 ...	27
Sinks renewed ...	5	Number of Informal Notices served during 1953 ...	194
Sink waste pipes repaired/renewed ...	26	Number of complaints received during 1953 ...	315
Sink pillars renewed ...	1		
W.C. pans renewed ...	10		
W.C. flushing cisterns renewed/repaired ...	16		

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

The following tables show the number of inspections of factories carried out and the details of defects found:—

1. Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Owners Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	6	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	153	246	13	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority* (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	3	—	—
TOTALS	166	255	13	—

* Electrical Stations, Institutions, and works of engineering construction and sites of building operations.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	8	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home Work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	13	13	—	3	—

Outworkers: There are 2 outworkers in the district. One is engaged in the making of wearing apparel and the other in making braid and trimmings.

Visits of inspection are carried out to ensure that working conditions are maintained at a satisfactory standard. In each case the house is clean and satisfactory. No cases of infectious diseases concerning outworkers' premises were notified during the year.

Shops Acts. As in previous years opportunity was taken to check on the administration of the Shops Acts when visiting shops for other purposes, viz., the inspection of foodstuffs, sampling of ice-cream, milk, etc.

Observations have been made in the more populated villages and no infringements of the hours of closing have been noted. On a complaint being received alleging contravention of the Sunday Trading Act, five shopkeepers in one village were visited and the Act explained to them. It is sometimes difficult for the small shopkeeper to understand that although it is permissible to sell fresh vegetables on a Sunday, it is not permissible to sell canned or bottled vegetables.

During the Christmas shopping period in the year under review, no order was made to allow later shopping hours and no infringements of the Act were noted in this period.

Apart from the small owner-occupied general shops the tendency to close before the terminal hour still prevails.

Swimming Baths and Pools. The two privately owned swimming pools in the rural district were once again open to the public. Samples of water from both pools were taken and submitted to the County Laboratories for bacteriological and chemical examination. Twelve such samples were taken during 1953, all of which gave satisfactory results upon examination.

The proprietors are interviewed from time to time during the summer months and any necessary advice is given regarding the method of chlorination. Both pools are situated on the main London/Folkestone Road A.20 and during the season a considerable number of persons take advantage of the facilities offered.

Eradication of Pests (other than rats and mice). The Department has continued to help persons seeking its aid in connection with bug, flea and fly infestations. The work is carried out by the Rodent Operator, using liquid insecticide containing residual D.D.T. or D.D.T. smoke generators. Such treatment has proved satisfactory.

Twenty premises were treated during the year and it is interesting to note that the majority of these treatments were carried out during the summer months.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Baiting and poisoning of surface and sewer infestations of rats and mice, in the manner recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, was carried out during the year and gave very satisfactory results. Warfarin, with either sausage rusk or oatmeal as bait base, was used exclusively on surface infestations, whilst zinc phosphide and sausage rusk, and arsenious oxide and bread mash were the baits recommended by the Ministry for the treatment of sewers.

The following tables summarise rats and mice disinfection treatments, both as regards surface and sewers:—

SURFACE.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (inc. Business Premises)	Total
Total number of Properties in Local Authority's area.	17	9843	491	1048	11399
Number of Properties inspected as result of notification.	—	108	1*	20	129
Number of Properties inspected as result of survey or otherwise.	17	459	—	271	747
Number of infested Properties treated by Local Authority during 1953. (Completed treatments only).	Rats 10	159	—	14	183
	Mice —	23	—	9	32
Number of "block" control treatments carried out.	20 involving 62 individual premises.				

* Found to be agricultural land only. Owner advised to contact K.A.E.C.

In addition, 26 re-treatments were carried out during the year, at properties included in the above figures. This represents 10·8% of all completed treatments.

SEWERS.

Section	Number of Manholes	Number Pre-baited		Number of Pre-bait takes		Number poison baited		Number of poison bait takes	
		Jan.	July	Jan.	July	Jan.	July	Jan.	July
Aylesford (inc. Burham and Eccles)	132	14	Not treated	—	Not treated	—	Not treated	—	Not treated
East Malling	80	8		—		—		—	
Ditton	80	9		—		—		—	
Borough Green	65	8		—		—		—	
Platt	45	3		—		—		—	
Plaxtol	36	4		—		—		—	
Wrotham	30	6		—		—		—	
West Malling	98	12		6	6	6	6	6	6
Snodland	87	34	40	18	25	18	25	14	25
Totals	653	98	48	24	31	24	31	20	31

As may be seen from the above table, the 10% manhole re-test of all sewers, carried out in January, showed that maintenance treatment was necessary only in the parishes of Snodland and West Malling. The results showed no great change from the treatment carried out in July, 1952. However, the maintenance treatment undertaken in July, 1953, showed an improvement in the position in West Malling, but the degree of infestation of the Snodland sewers appeared similar to that obtaining at the time of the previous treatment. During 1954 it is hoped to carry out increased treatment of the Snodland sewers and thus reduce the degree of infestation in this system.

SECTION D

Housing. Most of the complaints referred to the Department concern housing defects and this aspect of the work has again taken up most of the time. 373 initial inspections of cottages were made during the year necessitating 898 revisits to ensure compliance with notices served. I am generably able to satisfy the tenant who feels that his landlord is not keeping the property in repair and when I see repair work progressing I feel that the effort has been worth while. A table of the repair work carried out as a result of action by the Sanitary Inspectors appears on page 27.

Once an informal notice is served on a landlord it is followed up until all works are carried out and statutory notices are served as required. During 1953 it was not necessary to resort to legal proceedings to effect compliance with the notices.

With the advent of the new Housing Repairs and Rents Act it is anticipated that much more time will need to be devoted to small cottage property, but it will be well worth it if it means that essential repairs are carried out and cottages falling into disrepair are given a further useful span of life.

Three cottages were demolished during the year as a result of informal action under the Housing Act whilst a further 5 premises were closed for human habitation, also as a result of informal action. As persons are rehoused from sub-standard accommodation, such dwellings are dealt with to preclude further habitation in such conditions.

Number of new dwellings erected during the year:—

(a) By the Local Authority	110
(b) By others	54
	—
	164
	—

Hutted Camps. At the beginning of 1953 four hutted camps were in use housing a total of 79 families. Acting on instructions from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, certain huts at Court Lodge Camp, Aylesford, A.A. Gun Site, Burham, and Ice House Fields, West Malling, were demolished as and when they became vacant. A total of 10 huts were dealt with in this way during 1953, leaving 69 occupied huts at end of the year.

It has continued to be very difficult to maintain the huts in a reasonable state of repair and complaints are frequently received from the tenants. All such complaints receive attention and it is becoming quite costly to maintain these huts. However, I am pleased to see that the end of these hutted camps is in sight, for huts are now being demolished as the occupants are being rehoused.

Rural Housing Survey. It has not been found possible to carry out any inspections under the Rural Housing Survey during the year owing to the fact that the Officer engaged on this work spent the major portion of his time making enquiries in connection with the selection of tenants for new Council houses.

The total of houses inspected and recorded therefore remains at 2,805, details of which are again set out below:—

Category.	No.	% to total surveyed
1. Satisfactory in all respects ...	241	8.59
2. Minor defects	2131	75.97
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	289	10.30
4. Appropriate for reconditioning ...	—	—
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost ...	144	5.14

It is hoped that during the coming year sufficient time will be available for the Survey to be continued.

The following table records details of amenities existing at premises inspected:—

										Total at end of 1953
Number of houses inspected										2805
Sink										2696
Washing Accommodation										2411
Bath										393
Cooking Facilities	Ranges*									2178
	Electricity									190
	Gas									418
	Oil									19
Food Storage	Ventilated									556
	Unventilated									2249
Water Supply	Main									2773
	Well or spring (individual)... ..									7
	Rain Water Storage									25
	Piped Indoors									2630
Drainage	Sewer									1882
	Cesspool									825
	None									98
Closet Accommodation	W.C. Indoors									376
	W.C. Outdoors									2095
	Pail Closet Outdoors									315
	Privy Midden									9
	Chemical Closet									10

* It should be noted that approximately 65% of this number have other means of cooking either by electricity or gas in addition to ranges.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises. The following table indicates the approximate number of food premises within the rural district:—

Cafés and Works Canteens...	48	
Bakehouses	15	
Butchers' Shops	32	of which 31 are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for sausage making and pickling meat.
Fishmongers' Shops	10	
Licensed Premises	122	

777 routine inspections were made during the year to the above premises, including Slaughterhouses, Dairies and ice-cream premises. Particular attention is paid to premises on the trunk road A.20 during the holiday season when large numbers of day trippers are catered for. Such routine inspections elicited a number of defects and improvement and repair was carried out where necessary. At each inspection opportunity is taken to acquaint the traders with the Council's Food Byelaws and the terms of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Notices were printed by the Council during the year and issued to food traders requesting all food handlers to wash their hands after using the toilet and before handling food. These are renewed as and when necessary and are most useful. A constant supply of hot water is provided at every shop, café and public house wherever practicable and the personal cleanliness of food handlers is noted.

Opportunity is always taken to visit a food shop upon change of ownership, for the new owner is generally keen to improve business and consequently is amenable to suggestions for improvement put forward by the Inspector.

A welcome improvement appearing in one or two shops is the provision of refrigerated display cabinets. These not only present the food to the customer in an attractive manner but also conserve the food and exclude flies.

Rat and mice work in food premises receives the attention of the Rodent Operator from time to time and in one café in particular during the year mice were found in a cavity behind panelled walls in a food preparation room. The infestation was cleared and the walls stripped and rendered with cement to prevent further harbourage.

A concerted effort has been made with regard to public houses and there are now very few without a constant

supply of hot water for glass washing. I find the brewers most co-operative in this respect. When alteration to sanitary accommodation is necessary in these premises an Inspector usually meets the Brewers' representative and acquaints him with public health requirements.

In the butchers' shops it was necessary to draw attention to the numbers of flies prevalent during the hot weather. In one shop the window had been removed and the meat exposed not only to flies but to dust and dirt contamination. On request the meat was removed to the refrigerator. The use of an insecticide spray, harmless to food, was recommended where flies were prevalent and proved successful. Where meat and other perishable foods are displayed it is hoped that future trends will be towards the provision of refrigerated display cabinets.

MILK.

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938-1950.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

There were 13 dairies on the register at the commencement of the year, but one ceased to be used as such during the year. There are now 61 persons registered as "distributors" of milk within the district. This is an increase of 17 over last year's figures and is due to an increase in the number of small shops that retail "Sterilised" milk. 64 routine inspections were made to dairies and distributors during the year, when conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The undermentioned licences to use special designations were granted during the year:—

	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
Dealers' Licences	14	12	43
Supplementary Licences	7	7	1
Totals	21	19	44

In the case of the dealers' licences only 3 persons actually bottle designated milk on their premises. In each of these cases "Tuberculin Tested" milk is obtained from a local

farmer and is bottled and capped in accordance with the regulations. In all other cases designated milk is sold in the sealed bottles in which it is obtained from the wholesaler.

A satisfactory standard was maintained with regard to designated milk, as will be seen from the following record of samples taken:—

Grade	Number of samples taken	Number which satisfied the prescribed test	Number which did not satisfy the prescribed test
Tuberculin Tested	19	15	4
Tuberculin Tested [Pasteurised]	6	6	—
Pasteurised	22	22	—
Sterilised	18	18	—

Three of the four unsatisfactory results referred to a local milk producer and the matter was referred to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries so that conditions obtaining at the cow shed could be investigated. Subsequent samples proved satisfactory. In the case of the one other unsatisfactory sample a repeat proved satisfactory.

I consider it most important to ensure that raw milk is free from tuberculosis and any milk which is known to be sold raw is sampled and submitted to a biological examination. In this respect 11 samples were taken during the year, usually of the mixed milk from farms and I am pleased to record that all proved negative for the presence of tuberculosis.

Meat and Other Foods. The meat supply for the rural district comes from the centralised slaughterhouses of the adjacent urban areas. Four private slaughterhouses are licenced in this area in connection with the Self-Suppliers of Pigs Scheme, and 21 pigs killed in this way were inspected during the year.

Inspections of food at various retail food premises in the area are carried out from time to time and in this connection the following quantity of foodstuffs was surrendered as

unfit for human consumption, and disposed of at the controlled tip during the year:—

Article.					Weight			
					Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Tinned and bottled fruits	...	...	...	...	3	2	8	11
Tinned soups	...	...	...	...				10½
Tinned vegetables	...	...	...	...			17	2¾
Tinned fish	...	...	...	...			6	9½
Wet fish	...	...	...	...	2	0	23	0
Tinned meats	...	...	...	...		6	6	3½
Butchers' meat	...	...	...	...		3	8	4
Jams	...	...	...	...			1	8
Cheese	...	...	...	...			11	0
Butter	...	...	...	...			13	8
Fish and meat pastes	...	...	...	...		1	19	8¾
Total ...					9	0	4	2

In addition to the weights shown above the equivalent of 57¼ pints of condensed and evaporated milk was also surrendered as unfit.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following details of samples by the County Sampling Officers within the Malling Rural District during the year ended 31st December, 1953, and submitted to the Public Analyst, have been furnished by the Chief Inspector (Mr. S. Strugnell) of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, who are the responsible authority for this purpose in the district:—

Article.	No.	Article.	No.
Arrowroot	1	Brought forward ...	30
Aspirin B.P. Tablets	1	Ice Lollies	1
Beef Sausages	1	Koola Fruita Ice Lolly ...	1
Bottled Plums	2	Lemon Jelly	1
British Sherry	1	Lime Juice Cordial	1
Bronchial Catarrh Syrup ...	1	Lolly Specials	1
Cascara Sagrada	1	Macaroni, ready cut	1
Chocolate Wafer	1	Malt Vinegar	1
Coffee Extract	1	Marzipan	3
Cooking Fat	1	Meat Pies	5
Cream	1	Milk	36
Cream Biscuits	1	Milk of Magnesia Tablets ...	1
Dessicated Coconut	1	Mussel Paste	1
Dolly Mixtures	1	Orange Wine	1
Double Cream	1	Pineapple and Papaw Jam ...	1
Dried Milk Powder	1	Pork Sausages	3
Essence of Coffee and		Red Gum and Menthol	
Chicory	1	Pastilles	1
Fruit Salad in Syrup ...	1	Saccharin Tablets	1
Full-cream Fresh Milk Fudge	1	Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce	
Gin	3	with Cheese	1
Gob-stoppers	1	Special Ice Lollies	1
Golden Bread Crumbs with		Special Pork Sausages ...	1
colouring	1	Steak and Kidney Pie ...	1
Gooseberries in Syrup ...	1	Tomato Ketchup	1
Ground Almonds	1	Tomato Sauce	1
Halibut Oil Capsules ...	1	Whisky	2
Hot Milk	2	Whistles	1
Carried forward 30		Total ... 99	

Summary: Milks, 38, Drugs 7, Spirits 5, Other samples 49.

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample of	Analysis.	Action taken.
Marzipan.	Almond 40%, Sugar 60%. Percentage of almonds if less than 60% should be declared.	Manufacturer notified.
Milk.	12% deficient in fat.	Producer interviewed and advised regarding adequate mixing. Steps being taken to rectify deficiency. Further sample to be taken.
Hot Milk.	Contained 5% added water.	Written caution.
Pasteurised Milk.	1.7% deficient in fat.	Follow-up samples to be taken.

Tomato Ketchup.	Deficient in tomato solids. Tomato solids 3.14% (should be 6%), Copper 0.6% parts per million.	Probably old stock. Further sample to be taken.
Tomato Sauce.	Tomato solids 4.1% (should be 6%).	Further sample taken, satisfactory.
T.T. Channel I.	7.5% deficient in fat.	Reported to Ministry of Food, Milk Division.
T.T. Channel I.	15% deficient in fat.	Reported to Ministry of Food, Milk Division.
Channel I.	13.75% deficient in fat.	Reported to Ministry of Food, Milk Division.

Ice-cream: There are no manufacturers of ice-cream within the district. 89 premises are registered for the storage and sale, all of whom are selling ice-cream from approved sources. 55 samples were taken during the year, the results of which were as follows:—

Grade I—41; Grade II—13; Grade III—1; Grade IV—nil.

The 55 samples taken embraced 11 different brands of ice-cream. In the case of the one Grade III sample a further inspection was carried out at the premises to check conditions, and a repeat sample then collected proved to be satisfactory. I am pleased to be able to report that the general standard of ice-cream sold within the district during the year under review was good. This is borne out by the fact that in no case was there a Grade IV result on a sample and only one Grade III. Care is taken when applications for registration are received, to ensure that the premises comply in all respects with the standard required, before I require the Council to effect registration.

Hop and Fruit Pickers' Camps: Thirty-two hop pickers' camps were occupied during the 1953 season, giving accommodation for an estimated 8,500 pickers. 46 visits of inspection were made to check on living and sanitary conditions, and, where necessary, advice was given to the growers as to means of improving conditions. With regard to improvements, opportunity is taken from time to time between the seasons, to encourage owners to improve the accommodation available for the pickers. In this connection 55 concrete floors were provided in lieu of earth.

The water supply to all camps is satisfactory, all but three having a mains supply.

Scavenging is mostly carried out by the growers, but at one large camp refuse is collected by the Council by arrangement, the growers paying for the service.

Sanitary accommodation was satisfactory, the majority being in the form of shallow trench latrines. Three camps, however, have waterborne sanitation.

No notifications of infectious disease were received from the camps during the picking season.

The Inspecting Medical Officer from the Ministry of Health visited the district on the 1st September and inspected five camps, finding them satisfactory.

Camping Sites (Public Health Act, 1936—Section 269)
(Moveable Dwellings)

The following gives particulars of licences dealt with during the year:—

(a)	Number of applications received during 1953 for licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings	15
	Number of licences granted	14
(b)	Number of applications received during 1953 for licences to station and use moveable dwellings on sites in (a) ...	34
	Number of licences granted	34

The position regarding caravans is much the same as that for the previous year. Although the number of licences granted is not a true indication of the number of caravans in the rural area, I do not consider there has been an increase in the number of unlicensed caravans during the year. Only one application for licence was refused, due to inability of the land to comply with public health requirements. Action is now taken under the Town and Country Planning Act prior to public health licensing.

In conclusion I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to the Council for their continued support during the year and to the staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. COLDRICK,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Parish.	Number of Houses according to Rate Books — December 1953 (computed)	Area (acres)	Population (estimated)
Addington	160	1,119	504
Aylesford	1,232	4,013	4,514
Birling	240	1,801	794
Borough Green	527	480	1,703
Burham	525	1,632	1,801
Ditton	552	1,066	1,733
Ightham	464	2,278	1,443
Leybourne	164	755	1,676
East Malling	952	2,787	3,315
West Malling	756	1,379	3,407
Mereworth	196	2,556	982
Offham	200	1,479	685
East Peckham	610	3,337	1,882
West Peckham	97	1,582	367
Platt	328	1,827	1,080
Plaxtol	328	2,406	1,006
Ryarsh	239	1,375	748
Shipbourne	136	2,007	450
Snodland	1,221	1,958	4,184
Stansted	159	1,974	544
Trottiscliffe	134	1,155	396
Wateringbury	381	1,377	1,142
Wouldham	250	1,855	890
Wrotham	435	3,457	1,624
Totals	10,286	45,655	36,870

SUMMARY

Area of District (in acres)	45,655
Registrar-General's estimate of Mid-Year Home Population	36,870
Average density of persons per acre	1.24
Average density of persons per square mile	517
Number of inhabited dwellings (end 1953) accord- ing to Rate Books (computed)	10,286
Average density of dwellings	1 per 4.43 acres
Average number of persons per dwelling inhabited	3.58
Rateable Value as at 31/3/53	£221,131
Sum represented by a penny rate as at 31/3/53...	£890

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